

Regular Meeting

Agenda Item #	3
Meeting Date	October 11, 2004
Prepared By	Barbara B. Matthews
Approved By	Barbara B. Matthews

Discussion Item	Resolution Establishing the Citizens' Committee on Tax Duplication
Background	<p>With the escalation in property values and the corresponding increase in property taxes paid to the City of Takoma Park, there has been increasing concern in the community regarding the issue of tax duplication. In response to this concern, the City Council charged the City Manager with conducting a comprehensive review of the issue of tax duplication.</p> <p>To assist the Council and the public in reviewing this complex issue, the City Manager proposed the formation of a Citizens' Committee on Tax Duplication. The Council discussed the City Manager's proposal on September 27, 2004 and reached consensus on the formation of the Committee.</p> <p>Attached is a draft resolution for the Council's consideration. The draft includes the appointment of up to three Committee members by the Mayor, one of whom would serve as Chair; this provision was included in the City Manager's original proposal submitted to the Council. During the discussion of this matter on September 27, 2004, Council Member Seamens expressed concern regarding the appointment of Committee members by the Mayor. Pending further discussion and direction from the majority of the Council, this provision has been included in the draft resolution. Names of Committee members will be incorporated in the resolution once they have been identified.</p>
Policy	The City has a long history of drawing upon the talent and expertise of Takoma Park residents in addressing major policy issues.
Fiscal Impact	If deemed appropriate by the Council, the Committee meetings could be videotaped and aired on the City's cable television channel. The cost for doing so would be approximately \$300 per meeting.
Attachments	Draft Resolution
Recommendation	Staff recommends that the Council adopt the attached resolution, establishing the Citizens' Committee on Tax Duplication.
Special Consideration	

Resolution No. 2004-

Resolution Establishing the Takoma Park Citizens' Committee on Tax Duplication

WHEREAS, property values in the City of Takoma Park have increased significantly in recent years, resulting in a corresponding increase in property taxes paid to the City; AND,

WHEREAS, as a result, there has been increasing concern in the community regarding the issue of tax duplication; AND,

WHEREAS, the City Council wishes to establish a citizens' committee to provide assistance with the review of this complex issue; AND,

WHEREAS, said Committee shall be called the "Citizens' Committee on Tax Duplication" and shall be constituted for a duration of six months, which may be extended at the discretion of the City Council; AND,

WHEREAS, the Committee shall provide the City Council with a final report at the conclusion of the aforementioned six-month period; AND,

WHEREAS, the Committee shall be appointed by the City Council, with up to three representatives from each ward and three representatives selected by the Mayor, one of whom shall serve as Chair; AND,

WHEREAS, the Committee would be charged with the following duties and tasks:

- To become knowledgeable of the legal requirements and constraints of municipal tax duplication in the State of Maryland and in Montgomery County and recommend how the City can communicate this information to the public
- To identify areas where further research is needed concerning tax duplication
- To recommend actions the City could take to obtain a fairer tax duplication payment from Montgomery County and to decrease the level of tax duplication paid by City property owners
- To provide assistance and guidance in the development of the resident survey, specifically in regard to those questions concerning City service delivery.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE TAKOMA PARK CITY COUNCIL does hereby establish the Citizens' Committee on Tax Duplication and appoints the following persons to serve on said Committee:

Name

Address

Adopted this _____ day of October, 2004.

ATTEST:

Catherine E. Waters, CMC/AAE
City Clerk